

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A polylactic acid resin composition, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

poly-L-lactic acid having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%;

poly-D-lactic acid having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%; and

a polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body consisting of a lamellar clay mineral and one of said poly-L-lactic acid and said poly-D-lactic acid ~~which is~~ bonded to the lamellar clay mineral, and mineral:

wherein:

the other of said poly-L-lactic acid and said poly-D-lactic acid ~~which is~~ not bonded to the lamellar clay mineral; and

the ratio of said poly-L-lactic acid to said poly-D-lactic acid in the polylactic acid composition is from 1:99 wt% to 99:1 wt%.

2. (Currently Amended) The polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body is a polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body consisting of a lamellar clay mineral is organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group, and the one of said poly-L-lactic acid and said poly-D-lactic acid which is bonded to the lamellar clay mineral is bonded to the lamellar clay mineral through the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body is a poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body or a poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, obtained by mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic~~

onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizable monomers of L-lactic acid and/or L-lactide or polymerizable monomers of D-lactic acid and/or D-lactide, and polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site.

4. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for producing a polylactic acid resin composition, ~~characterized by the method~~ comprising:

~~a polymerizing step of mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizable monomers of L-lactic acid and/or L-lactide having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%, and~~

~~polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site to obtain a poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, and~~

~~a mixing step of mixing the poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body with poly-D-lactic acid having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%, wherein said poly-D-lactic acid which is not bonded to the lamellar clay mineral;~~

~~wherein the ratio of said poly-L-lactic acid to said poly-D-lactic acid in the polylactic acid resin composition is from 1:99 wt% to 99:1 wt%.~~

5. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for producing a polylactic acid resin composition, ~~characterized by the method~~ comprising:

~~a polymerizing step of mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizable monomers of D-lactic acid and/or D-lactide having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%, and~~

~~polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site to obtain a poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, and~~

a mixing step of mixing the poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body with poly-L-lactic acid having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%, wherein said poly-L-lactic acid which is not bonded to the lamellar clay mineral;

wherein the ratio of said poly-L-lactic acid to said poly-D-lactic acid in the polylactic acid resin composition is from 1:99 wt% to 99:1 wt%.

6. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A molded article comprising characterized in that the molded article is obtained by melt molding and crystallizing a polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 1 that has been melt molded and recrystallized which comprises a polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body consisting of a lamellar clay mineral and one of poly-L-lactic acid and poly-D-lactic acid which is bonded to the lamellar clay mineral, and the other of poly-L-lactic acid and poly-D-lactic acid which is not bonded to the lamellar clay mineral.

7. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The A molded article comprising a polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 2 that has been melt molded and recrystallized according to claim 6, characterized in that the molded article is a polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body consisting of a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group, and one of poly-L-lactic acid and poly-D-lactic acid which is bonded to the lamellar clay mineral through the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt.

8. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The A molded article comprising a polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 3 that has been melt molded and recrystallized according to claim 6, characterized in that the polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body is poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body or poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, obtained by mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizing monomers

~~of L-lactic acid and/or L-lactide or polymerizable monomers of D-lactic acid and/or D-lactide, and polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site.~~

9. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The molded article according to claim 6, characterized in that wherein a stereocrystals ratio  $\{(\Delta H_m, \text{stereo}/(\Delta H_m, \text{homo} + \Delta H_m, \text{stereo})) \times 100(\%) \}$ , determined from a melting endotherm ( $\Delta H_m, \text{homo}$ ) of a homocrystals melting peak and a melting endotherm ( $\Delta H_m, \text{stereo}$ ) of a stereocrystals melting peak measured by DSC measurement, is  $0.9X\%$  or more, wherein X is two times the value which is a smaller one of the content (A%) of poly-L-lactic acid and the content (B%) of poly-D-lactic acid, provided that  $A + B = 100\%$ .

10. (Currently Amended) The polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 2, characterized in that wherein the polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body is a poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body or a poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, obtained by mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizable monomers of L-lactic acid and/or L-lactide or polymerizable monomers of D-lactic acid and/or D-lactide, and polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site.

11. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The molded article according to claim 7, characterized in that wherein the polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body is a poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body or a poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, obtained by mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizing monomers of L-lactic acid and/or L-lactide or polymerizable monomers of D-lactic acid and/or D-lactide, and polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site.

12. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The molded article according to claim 7, characterized in that wherein a stereocrystals ratio  $\{(\Delta H_m, \text{stereo}/(\Delta H_m, \text{homo} + \Delta H_m, \text{stereo})) \times 100(\%) \}$ , determined from a melting endotherm ( $\Delta H_m, \text{homo}$ ) of a homocrystals melting peak and a melting endotherm ( $\Delta H_m, \text{stereo}$ ) of a stereocrystals melting peak measured by DSC measurement, is 0.9X% or more, wherein X is two times the value which is a smaller one of the content (A%) of poly-L-lactic acid and the content (B%) of poly-D-lactic acid, provided that A + B = 100%.

13. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The molded article according to claim 8, characterized in that wherein a stereocrystals ratio  $\{(\Delta H_m, \text{stereo}/(\Delta H_m, \text{homo} + \Delta H_m, \text{stereo})) \times 100(\%) \}$ , determined from a melting endotherm ( $\Delta H_m, \text{homo}$ ) of a homocrystals melting peak and a melting endotherm ( $\Delta H_m, \text{stereo}$ ) of a stereocrystals melting peak measured by DSC measurement, is 0.9X% or more, wherein X is two times the value which is a smaller one of the content (A%) of poly-L-lactic acid and the content (B%) of poly-D-lactic acid, provided that A + B = 100%.